

24 APR 1947

The Honorable Clara Z. Hoffman, Chairman
Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments
House Office Building
Washington, 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoffman:

I am in receipt of your letter of 17 April 1947 and appreciate its kind invitation for me to appear before your Committee in connection with H.R. 2319. I would very much like to testify in support of this bill, addressing my remarks to Section 202, which Section establishes the Central Intelligence Agency.

I am grateful for your suggestion of several dates on which I might testify. If it were possible for you to arrange it, it would be preferable for me to appear on the first of May. This would be very helpful to me, as I have been told that I am leaving the Central Intelligence Group to return to active duty with the Air Forces at about that time.

Sincerely,

WLPforzheimer:msc
CC: Executive Office Registry.
Central Records - 2.
Return to Pforzheimer. ✓
Stayback.

HOYT S. VANDENBERG
Lieutenant General, USA
Director of Central Intelligence

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: MY APPEARANCE BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE THIS MORNING IS IN SUPPORT OF SECTION 202 OF THE PROPOSED NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947. THIS SECTION OF THE BILL PROVIDES THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, WITH A CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CREATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS. OUR PRESENT ORGANIZATION, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP--WHICH I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF DIRECTING--HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE JANUARY, 1946, BY AUTHORITY OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE OF THE PRESIDENT.

SINCE THE DAY THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED, THE DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE -- MY PREDECESSOR, ADMIRAL SOUERS, AND I -- HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN WE COULD COME BEFORE THE CONGRESS, AND REQUEST PERMANENT STATUS THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT. I SINCERELY URGE ADOPTION OF THIS SECTION OF THE BILL. THE UNITED STATES MUST HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SECOND TO NONE. IN ORDER TO PERFORM OUR SHARE IN MAINTAINING THE NATIONAL SECURITY IN TIMES OF PEACE, TO BE FOREWARNED AGAINST POSSIBLE ACTS OF AGGRESSION, TO BE ARMED AGAINST DISASTER IN AN ATOMIC AGE, WE MUST HAVE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES OF OTHER NATIONS.

I KNOW YOU GENTLEMEN UNDERSTAND THAT THE NATURE OF SOME OF THE WORK WE ARE DOING MAKES IT UNDESIRABLE -- FROM THE SECURITY STANDPOINT -- TO DISCUSS CERTAIN ACTIVITIES WITH TOO MUCH FREEDOM.